



## Legislative Bulletin.....January 16, 2007

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### Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

**Total Number of New Government Programs:** 0

**Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations:** unknown

**Effect on Revenue:** \$0

**Total Change in Mandatory Spending:** \$0

**Total New State & Local Government Mandates:** 0

**Total New Private Sector Mandates:** 0

**Number of Bills Without Committee Reports:** 2

**Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority:** 0

**H. Res. 61**—Observing and celebrating the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., and encouraging the people of the United States to celebrate the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr., and his life and legacy (*Lewis, D-GA*)

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, January 16, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 61 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “observes the Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.;
- “pledges to advance the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and
- “encourages the people of the United States to--
  - “observe the Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., and the life of Dr. King;
  - “commemorate the legacy of Dr. King, so that, as Dr. King hoped, ‘one day this Nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal;’and
  - “remember the message of Dr. King and rededicate themselves to Dr. King’s goal of a free and just United States.”

The resolution also lists a number of findings, including the following:

- “in February of 1948, Dr. King was ordained in the Christian ministry at the age of 19 at Ebenezer Baptist Church, in Atlanta, Georgia, and became Assistant Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church;
- “on June 18, 1953, Dr. King and Coretta Scott were married and later had two sons and two daughters;
- “Dr. King led the Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycott for 381 days to protest the arrest of Rosa Parks and the segregation of the bus system of Montgomery, during which time Dr. King was arrested and the home of Dr. King was bombed;
- “on August 28, 1963, Dr. King led the March on Washington, D.C., the largest rally of the civil rights movement, during which, from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and before a crowd of more than 200,000 people, Dr. King delivered his famous ‘I Have A Dream’ speech, one of the classic orations in American history;
- “Dr. King was a champion of nonviolence, fervently advocated nonviolent resistance as the strategy to end segregation and racial discrimination in America, and in 1964, at age 35, became the youngest man to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition for his efforts;
- “on the evening of April 4, 1968, Dr. King was assassinated while standing on the balcony of his motel room in Memphis, Tennessee, where he was to lead sanitation workers in protest against low wages and intolerable working conditions;
- “in 1968, Representative John Conyers introduced legislation to establish the Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. as a Federal holiday;
- “Coretta Scott King, who had been actively engaged in the civil rights movement as a politically and socially conscious young woman, continued after her husband’s death to lead the United States toward greater justice and equality, traveling the world on behalf of racial and economic justice, peace and non-violence, women’s and children’s rights, **gay rights**, religious freedom, full employment, health care, and education until her death on January 30, 2006; and
- “the values of faith, compassion, courage, truth, justice, and non-violence that guided Dr. and Mrs. King’s dream for America will be celebrated and preserved by the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Memorial on the National Mall between the Lincoln Memorial and the Jefferson Memorial and in the new National Museum of African American

History and Culture that will be located in the shadow of the Washington Monument” (emphasis added).

To learn more about the MLK Memorial, please click here, <http://www.mlkmemorial.org>.

**Committee Action:** On January 12, 2007, the bill was introduced and referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

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## **H.R. 188 — To provide a new effective date for the applicability of certain provisions of law to Public Law 105-331 — *as introduced (Pallone, D-NJ)***

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, January 16, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 188 would extend the deadline, from December 31, 2006 to June 30, 2007, for the Edison Memorial Tower in Edison, New Jersey to file a specified audited financial statement (P.L. 105-331).

**Additional Information:** The Edison Memorial Tower is formally known as the Thomas Alva Edison Memorial Tower and Museum, and is a memorial located in the Menlo Park area of Edison, New Jersey to inventor and businessman Thomas Edison. The structure was built in 1937 and dedicated on February 11, 1938, on Edison’s 91st birthday. The 131-foot tall tower is at the exact spot where the Menlo Park laboratory was located. The museum showcases many of Edison’s inventions, including the phonograph and several of his light bulbs, as well as memorabilia relating to Edison.



**Committee Action:** H.R. 188 was introduced on January 4, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Financial Services, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score of H.R. 188 is unavailable, but the bill does not authorize new expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution.” *[emphasis added]*

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**H.R. 391 — To authorize the Secretary of Housing and Community Development to continue to insure and enter into commitments to insure home equity conversion mortgages under section 255 of the National Housing Act — as introduced (Matheson, D-UT)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, January 16, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 391 would allow the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to insure and enter into commitments to insure mortgages under section 255 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z-20), without regard to the limitations in current law (section 255(g)). Current law stipulates that the total number of mortgages insured under section 255 may not exceed 150,000, nor may the benefits of insurance exceed the maximum dollar amount (section 1709 (b)(2)) for one-family residences in the area. Therefore, this bill allows HUD to issue mortgages beyond these limitations.

**Additional Background:** The stated purpose of section 255 of the National Housing Act is to meet the special needs of elderly homeowners “by reducing the effect of the economic hardship caused by the increasing costs of meeting health, housing, and subsistence needs at a time of reduced income,” through the insurance of home equity conversion mortgages to permit the conversion of a portion of accumulated home equity into liquid assets.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 391 was introduced on January 10, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Financial Services, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score of H.R. 391 is unavailable.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

House Rule XIII, Section 3(d)(1), requires that all committee reports contain “a statement citing the *specific* powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution.” *[emphasis added]*

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## **H. Res. 39—Commending the University of Florida Gators for their victory in the 2006 Bowl Championship Series (BCS) and for winning the national college football championship – as introduced (*Wasserman Schultz, D-FL*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, January 16, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 39 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “commends the Florida Gators for their victory in the 2006 Bowl Championship Series and for winning the national college football championship;
- “recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, students, and staff whose hard work and dedication helped the University of Florida Gators win the championship; and
- “directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit a copy of this resolution to University of Florida President J. Bernard Machen, football Head Coach Urban Meyer, and Athletic Director Jeremy Foley for appropriate display.”

The resolution also lists a number of findings, including the following:

- “on January 8, 2007, the University of Florida Gators won the 2006 Bowl Championship Series national title with a stunning 41-14 defeat over the Ohio State University Buckeyes;
- “the University of Florida football program celebrated its 100th Anniversary this season;
- “the University of Florida won the NCAA Championship title in basketball in April 2006;
- “the University of Florida is the first Division I school to hold the national championship title in both football and men's basketball concurrently;
- “Florida football Head Coach Urban Meyer is only the 7th coach to win a national championship in his first two seasons as a Division I college football coach;
- “senior quarterback Chris Leak was the Most Valuable Player of the BCS national championship game; and
- “the University of Florida student athletes are among the most talented in the Nation.”

**Committee Action:** On January 9, 2007, the bill was introduced and referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

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**H. Con. Res. \_\_—Honoring the Mare Island Original 21ers for their efforts to increase equal employment opportunities in the military – as introduced  
(Miller, D-CA)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, January 16, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Note:** Text of the resolution was not available at time of publication. Therefore, this summary is based on a previously introduced version, H.Con.Res. 31.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 31 would resolve that Congress recognizes:

- 1) “the historic accomplishments of the Mare Island Original 21ers in combating racial discrimination in employment as envisioned in title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and providing equal employment opportunities for African-American shipyard workers;
- 2) “the importance of the Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity as a forerunner to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission which continues the fight in resolving complaints of racial discrimination in employment; and
- 3) “the importance of title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as a powerful and ongoing tool for eliminating racial discrimination in employment.”

The resolution also states a number of findings, including the following:

- “over 45 years ago African-American workers employed by the Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, California, despite having work experiences and qualifications comparable to their counterparts, experienced racial discrimination resulting in the denial of opportunities in employment, training, and apprenticeship positions, supervisory positions, promotions, and awards;
- “in March 1961 President John F. Kennedy issued Executive Order 10925 establishing the President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity and reaffirming the prohibition of discrimination against any employee of, or applicant for employment by, the Federal Government because of race, color, religion, or national origin;
- “on November 17, 1961, 21 African-American shipyard workers at Mare Island Naval Shipyard filed a racial discrimination complaint with the Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity;
- “the complaint outlined nine allegations of racial discrimination in employment at Mare Island Naval Shipyard and requested that the Committee investigate and correct the deplorable conditions at Mare Island Naval Shipyard;



- “the filing of this complaint along with other similar complaints of racial discrimination led to an acknowledgment by then Defense Secretary Robert McNamara in 1963 that there was employment discrimination based on race in the military;
- “on November 8, 1963, the Original 21ers Club was officially recognized with the purpose of elevating qualified minorities in every phase of Mare Island employment, creating a better relationship between management and employees and better acquainting their membership with the working conditions of every occupation; and
- “the actions and persistence of the Original 21ers provided the means for overturning racial discrimination in employment at Mare Island Naval Shipyard and resulted in new employment opportunities for African-American workers at Mare Island Naval Shipyard.”

**Committee Action:** On January 12, 2007, the bill was introduced and referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

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## **H. Res. \_\_—Commending the Boise State University Broncos football team for winning the 2007 Fiesta Bowl and completing an undefeated season – as introduced (Simpson, R-ID)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, January 16, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Note:** Text of the resolution was not available at time of publication. Therefore, this summary is based on a previously introduced version, H.Res. 43.

**Summary:** H.Res. 43 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- 1) “commends the Boise State University Broncos football team for winning the 2007 Fiesta Bowl; and
- 2) “congratulates the team for completing an undefeated, 13-0 season.”

The resolution also lists a number of findings, including the following:

- “the Boise State University Broncos football team won the 2007 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl, defeating the University of Oklahoma Sooners by a score of 43-42 at the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Arizona, on January 1, 2007;

- “the Broncos are the Nation's top scoring Division 1-A collegiate football team for the last 7 seasons, with an average of over 42 points per game;
- “the Broncos are the Nation's 4th winningest Division 1-A collegiate football team for the last 7 seasons, with a record of 75-13 and winning percentage of over .850.
- “the 2007 Fiesta Bowl is widely considered one of the best games in the history of college football;
- “the Broncos are the only Division 1-A collegiate football team to complete the 2006-2007 season undefeated;
- “the entire Broncos team should be commended for its determination, work ethic, attitude, and heart; and
- the Broncos are deserving of an opportunity to play for the National Championship.”

**Committee Action:** On January 12, 2007, the bill was introduced and referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

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